

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
September 9, 2013**

PRESENT: Michael J. Retzky, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
David C. DiCicco, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Janet Jankowiak, Resident
Jo-Anne Ochala, Community Center Committee
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:05PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of August 12, 2013:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2013 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey shared the Board of Selectmen Rail Trail Public Meeting information and noted it will be held the same night as the vote for the new Commission member. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend the meeting. Ms. Carey reported the playground surfacing for the Newman preschool was not installed over the weekend due to a contractor delay. It will be installed as soon as possible.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
 - Summer is over and the pool closed up on August 23rd without incident.
 - Shared copies of the Fall Brochure
 - Fall registration took place on September 4th. Youth and Adult Tennis programs are popular along with Adult Basketball. New programs include Take a Hike, Introduction to Dance and Movement and Skateboarding
 - Collaborating with the Historical Society for a "Walk through History" on October 5th.
 - Town Wide Fall Clean Up and Trail Day will be held on October 26th.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Rosemary Pool Study:** Weston and Sampson shared draft options for Rosemary Pool at the recent PPBC meeting attended by Ms. Carey and Mr. Jacob. No actual cost estimates or operational/maintenance costs are available at this time.
 - Option 1-Decommissioning the pool, lower parking lot and building entirely, improve site and restore the lake bank, improve upper parking lot.
 - Option 1b- Decommission pool, keep building, remove pool, improvements to building and parking lots.
 - Option 1c- Decommission pool, swim in lake, keep the building.

- Option 2- Minor Renovation, 9700 sf pool with limited programming, building, parking lot, terrace and beach area improvements, storm water management.
- Option 3- Major Renovation, 19,700 sf pool within existing footprint, building improvements, expand and improve existing parking lot, ADA pedestrian connection from Rosemary St., subsurface storm water mitigation, major beach and terrace area improvement.
- Option 4- Full replacement, 19,000 sf pool inland from existing location for maximum programming, expanded pool deck, bank restoration, building improvements, lower area check in and upper level community space, separate filtration building, maximize site for parking with retaining walls.
- Option 4b- Full replacement, four season use, expand building to accommodate indoor pool or bubble structure, 2 level parking structure for 150 cars.

Mr. Jacob indicated a warrant article may be needed for the May Town Meeting to determine the direction the Town would like to move towards and if funds are needed to decommission the pool. So far 200 people have responded to the survey provided by Weston and Sampson. The Needham Community Center Group will be sending out a survey they created along with the Weston and Sampson survey. A final draft report will be available from Weston and Sampson in a few weeks.

B. North Hill Parking: None presented.

C. Commission Vacancy: Mr. Retzky reported there are 3 applicants for the vacant Commission seat. Mr. Retzky and Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Bulian will interview the candidates this week. On September 17, 2013 at a joint Board of Selectmen/Park and Recreation Commission meeting, a recommendation will be made and the boards will vote jointly on the appointment.

D. Food Trucks: Ms. Carey shared the draft policy of the regulation of food trucks. Currently food trucks of any kind must not be within 1000 feet of public parks. The consensus was that the Commission did not want food trucks at parks. The Commissioners are welcome to forward their personal opinions on food trucks to the Board of Selectmen.

E. Soccer Club Donation: Ms. Carey reported \$10,000 was donated from the Needham Soccer Club Memorial Day Tournament to be used for multipurpose field maintenance. The donation was placed in the gift fund. The Commissioners would like to invite the Executive Director of the Needham Soccer Club to discuss the field use fees implemented for organizations using Needham fields. Ms. Carey will invite Executive Director Mark Miskin to a future meeting.

F. Newman/Eastman Conservation Project: Ms. Carey reported that she is working with other Town departments to get bid documents together for a study and design for the Newman/Eastman Conservation project. A staff working group has been formed and public input will be required including the user groups, athletic teams, School Committee, trail users, and others. Needham Baseball and Softball has indicated interest in the two 60' diamonds remaining for their use, and would like to give input on the project. Numerous permits will be required for this project.

G. Fall Fields: Ms. Carey reported the condition of the fields from summer to fall look good. McLeod Field has another sink hole which is being fixed. Needham Baseball and Softball will be using Memorial Park during the repair. Typically, the YMCA has requested permits afterschool and weekends but now have requested time during the day. Although the new program requests were due in July, they were not submitted until the end of August Ms. Carey has allotted space for the new YMCA programs to be held at Claxton Field for the fall season, only. Dan Shapiro asked if a football team had a permit for Cricket Field on Sunday mornings. Ms. Carey stated this group does not have a permit, they are not just playing a pick up game and they have been asked to leave the field numerous times by Ms. Carey and the Police. Ms. Carey thanked Mr. Shapiro for letting her know they started using the field again.

H. Future Field Allocations: It was suggested that the current and future users of Newman and Claxton Fields be invited to a “Blue Sky” type meeting to share ideas for improvements to both fields. Mr. DiCicco would like to see DeFazio Field available for Junior Football practices to help relieve some of the pressure on Memorial Park. The Commissioners will schedule this meeting for November.

I. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust: No additional information presented.

J. Proposed Rail Trail- Southern Section: Ms. Carey indicated the Rail Trail Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 in Powers Hall. The goal is to have a vote at the Special Town Meeting to enter a lease with the MBTA for the railroad track from High Rock Street to the Charles River Bridge. At the Public Hearing on September 17th the Bay Colony Rail Trail will present the different phases of the project and the amount of fundraising necessary for each phase. The second Town Meeting article is for the required insurance. The Selectmen and Town Manager have submitted an application to the Community Preservation Committee for those funds, half of which would be reimbursed through a state grant.

K. Trail Projects: Ms. Peirce noted there is a teacher at the High School who is interested in getting a group together to clear up the Camp Property grounds and building. Ms. Carey will speak to Kathy Pinkham the Wellness Director at the High School to get more information about this proposal. October 26th will be the Town Wide Fall Clean Up Day and Trail Clean Up Day. Ridge Hill is the designated trail for the trail clean up.

L. Greene’s Field Project: The basketball court has been removed, and initial work on other projects has begun. Playground equipment installation is ready to begin and the entire Greene’s Field project should be completed by the end of September/early October.

M. Walker- Gordon Project: Ms. Carey reported a car hit a newly planted small tree and damaged part of the field. The field damage is being repaired but the Town is waiting to hear from the Town’s insurance company to see if there is any coverage for the tree. The field will be ready for use in Spring 2014.

N. Capital Funding- Prior Approved Projects: Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick is available to attend the October 28th Commission meeting to review transferred funds and a list of current capital fund projects.

O. Greendale Avenue Chapter 40B Project: No update at this time.

P. Encroachment Update: Ms. Carey has received some questions from the owners of 21 Armen Way on the restoration project, and expects their plan shortly. She also reported that crushed gravel was put down in the driveway of 170 Nehoiden Street. Conservation Commission Director Pattty Barry will contact the owners of the Nehoiden Street property.

5. Action Items

A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket): Information was shared that Mitchell School will be asking for funds for modular classrooms to be used until a complete school renovation is completed. Hillside is first in line for a renovation. A Statement of Interest was submitted to the State for approval in May 2013. No other information is available at this time.

B. Special Event Request: Soccer Club: The Needham Soccer Club submitted a request to host the Needham Soccer Club 300th Jamboree on October 26, 2013 at DeFazio Brock and Founders fields from 1:00-9:00pm. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Soccer Club for the 300th Jamboree. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Special Event Request: Dog Park Working Group: The Needham Dog Park Working Group submitted a request to host a Needham Dog Show at the Claxton Quarry area on Sunday, October 6, 2013 (rain date October 20) from 1:00-3:30PM. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Needham Dog Show on October 6, 2013. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

D. Special Event Request: Booster Club: The Needham High School Booster Club submitted a request to sell Christmas Trees at the Claxton Quarry area from November 30 to December 24, 2013, Monday-Friday 5-9PM Saturday 9-7PM and Sunday 10-6PM. Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the request from the NHS Booster Club to sell Christmas trees at the Claxton Quarry area from November 30 to December 24, 2013. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Signage

7. Adjournment: Mr. DiCicco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director